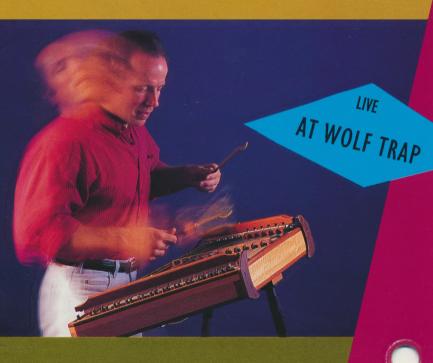
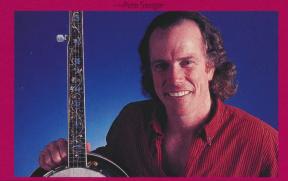
# John McCutcheon











#### CALLING ALL THE CHILDREN HOME

words & music by John McCutcheon

Written as a gift to my brothers & sisters Christmas 1990, the first part is how my Mother used to call us in at night...

John: vocal & guitar Tom Chapin: vocals & second guitar

"John, Mary Claire, Lulu, Jeanie Kevin, Jeff, Patty, Nancy, Rob"

Shadows growing longer, light's a-growing dim Supper's on the table everybody come in I've been playing at the river and I'm tired to the bone She's calling all the children home

#### Chorus:

Home to the table and the big, blackpot Everybody's got enough, 'though we ain't got a lot No one is forgotten, no one is alone When she's calling all the children home

Everybody's sittin' in everybody's place With their fresh-scrubbed fingers and their freshscrubbed face It's quiet just a minute while sister says a grace

Like she's calling all the children home Chorus

#### Bridg

I could hear her voice in the middle of a crowd It was never too late and it was never too loud Smelled just like home by the time we hit the door

There was always just enough but there was always room for more

So, out in the desert, down by the sea Hear the voice calling "Allee, allee in free!" From the city to the forest where the wild beasts roam

We are calling all the children home

#### Last Chorus:

Home to the table, home to the feast Where the last are first and the greatest are the least

Where the rich will envy what the poor have got Everybody's got enough, 'though we ain't got a lot No one is forgotten, no one is alone When we're calling all the children home

Home to the table and the big, black pot Everybody's got enough, 'though we ain't got a lot No one is forgotten, no one is alone From the shacks of Soweto to the ice of Nome From Baghdad City to the streets of Rome We're calling all the children home

"Isabelle, Moishe, Mikael, Kim Sipho, Mohammed, Red Hawk, Tim"

Charlottesville, VA. October, 1990.

## THE HOURS AFTER/LONESOME JOHN/REEL A BOUCHE/LEATHER BRITCHES

music on "The Hours After" by John McCutcheon/all others traditional

The first was written in Washington one Thanksgiving weekend. "Lonesome John" comes from Scott Boatright, a wonderful banjo player from Fort Blackmore, VA. "Reel" is a French Canadian mouth music piece. And the final tune is an old warhorse played at most any square dance you might go to around home.

John: hammer dulcimer

#### STOLE AND SOLD FROM AFRICA

traditional

I learned this amazing song from a most amazing singer, Addie Graham. She was the grandmother of my old pal, Rich Kirby, and in the heyday of a band Rich and I had we used to visit with Addie at her home in Cynthiana, KY. The song appears in abolitionist journals of the 19th century, though Addie claims to have learned it from black singers in her youth.

John: vocals

We're stole and sold from Africa Transported to America Like hogs and sheep we march in drove Suffer the heat, endure the cold We're almost naked, as you see Almost bare-footed as we be Suffer the lash, endure the pain Exposed to sun, both wind and rain

See how they take us from our wives Young children from their mother's side They take us to some foreign land Make slaves to wait on gentlemen

Oh Lord, have mercy and look down Upon the race of the African kind Upon our knees pour out our grief And pray to God for some relief

#### **BLACK SEA**

words & music by John McCutcheon

Over the years I've come to know and love a little fishing town, Cordova, on Prince William Sound in Alaska. Following the Exxon Valdez disaster I was asked by my friends in the Cordova District Fishemen United, the fishing union up there, to come up for a regional/community event they were planning, Prince William Sound Day. Being as I have a reputation as writing sympathetic songs about major multi-national corporations I figured maybe I was just the guy to help everyone think about this whole affair a little more compassionately...

John: vocal & guitar

Now, friends, I know you read about it in the papers Or perhaps you saw the pictures on TV How the tanker cracked and the sea turned black But it's time for some compassion, don't you see Hell, the shipping lane was only 10 miles wide You fishermen, you ought to understand And when the captain asked for "one on the rocks" Well, the third mate followed his command

And we'll change the name to "The Black Sea" We'll make it all a tourist spot
And when we're done we'll give it back to the people of Alaska
lust to show what man hath wrought

Just to show what man hath wrought

And we'll pass along the cost to the ones who've
lost

'Cause you know it's the American Way Erect a neon sign for the rest of time: "Brought to you by Exxon-USA"

Now the government, it was quick on its feet
No, they didn't leave a single thing to chance
But when it came to pressuring a corporate giant
Don't you know they did a brand new dance
"I know you got your birds and your mammals and
your fishing and your families
So I hope you'll understand the brief delay"
But you can bet if this had happened off of
Kennebunkport
They'd have cleaned it up the very same day

And we could call it "Spill of Fortune"
Maybe you could buy a fowl
Exxon pulls the strings and the government sings
Throws up its hand and throws in the towel
And if we can get the clearance a special
appearance
Is scheduled by the IRS
With a mop and a rake and a big tax break
'Cause they're used to working in an awful mess

Now I don't claim to have any answers But you know that I've got questions by the score Like, who has the power and who has the name Who has the right and who has the blame And who has the lawyers and who has the tax breaks

Who has the damage control
Who has the home and who has the future
Who has the troubled soul?

So you can skim the oil as you skim the profits But you'll only skim the surface of the crime And when you drive to the pump watch the gas price jump

And I think you'll understand it all in time Why up in the land of the midnight sun You know, we're really in an awful fix Seems corporate profits and the public good Like oil and water, don't mix

And we could call it "I've Got a Secret"
And everyone could guess what's being done
Or maybe we could call it "To Tell the Truth"
Now wouldn't that be a lot of fun?
But it's more like "Good Morning America"
And everyone is waking up to find
That feather and fin and fur and skin
We're all judged by the bottom line
But, side by side, we're gonna turn that tide
'Cause there ain't gonna be a second time

flying into Cordova, AK, 1989

#### THE OLD BROWN'S HEAD LIGHT

words & music by John McCutcheon

A story from a downeaster newspaper about the closing of one of the last family-operated lighthouse on the Maine coast...

John: vocal & guitar Bob: sobrano sax

He sat at the table his eyes rimmed in red Sayin, "Lucy, come see what the paper here said We knew it was coming tho' it still don't seem right They're taking the old Brown's Head Light"

"And what about Charlie, what will he do
When computers perform the one job that he knew
It's back to the big ships to forage the sound
With the wife and the kids at some new place in
town"

It's many a lost soul he's seen safely home And many a loved one he's brought to their own A voice in the darkness, a star in the night A wish for good luck from the old Brown's Head Light

Well, it was Boon Island, Saddleback, Egg Rock, Dice Head

Every year one more wired or left there for dead And it's one more old-timer washed up on the shore As they give you a gold watch and they show you the door

It's many a lost soul he's seen safely home and many a loved one he's brought to their own

A voice in the darkness, a star in the night A wish for good luck from the old Brown's Head Light

Well, you can call me old fashioned and I guess that it's true

I just ain't learned to change quick as other folks do But it's the same thing all over, and what I fear most Is that, Lucy, you know, we're the next light up coast

It's many a lost soul I've seen safely home And many a loved one I've brought to their own A voice in the darkness, a star in the night A wish for good luck from my home in the light

He sat at the table his eyes rimmed in red Sayin', "Lucy, come see what the paper here said We knew it was coming tho' it still don't seem right It's so hard to believe, but it's in black and white They're taking the old Brown's Head Light Oh, they're taking the old Brown's Head Light"

Victoria Beach, N.S.

#### JOE HILL

words by Alfred Hayes, music by Earl Robinson

John: vocal & guitar

I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night Alive as you and me Says I, "But Joe, you're ten years dead" "I never died," says he (2x)

"The copper bosses killed you, Joe They shot you, Joe," says I "Takes more than guns to kill a man" Says Joe, "I didn't die"

Standing there as big as life And smiling with his eyes Joe says, "What they could never kill Went on to organize!"

"From San Diego, up to Maine In every mine and mill When workers fight and organize It's there you'll find Joe Hill" I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night Aliwe as you and me Says I, "But Joe, you're ten years dead" "I never died," says he (2x)

#### GOING, GOING, GONE

words & music by Si Kahn

John: vocal & banjo

Oh, the scene was so familiar with farmers all around The auctioneer was standing there, he brought his hammer down

But when they started bidding the crowd let out a roar

For they heard something on that day they'd never heard before

#### Chorus:

What am I bid for the White House? Come on, boys, don't be slow

They've overspent their credit so they'll just have to go

If they can't learn to manage it's time they're

moving on

The leaders of this country are going, going gone!

Come on, let's start the bidding with that Congress on the hill

They're awful fond of spending, they just don't pay the bills

But with a little honest work we'll make them good as new

I hear they're handy on the farm if you show 'em what to do

Chorus

Then the crowd grew silent you could hear a needle drop

They motioned up the White House and put it on the block

But no one bid a nickel, they just stared so hard and cold

'Cause you can't bid on something that's already bought and sold

Chonis

And when the sale was over I sure did thank my luck I paid for both my senators and loaded 'em on the truck

Now one has gone to milking and the other's gone to seed

By wintertime they'll understand just what the farmers need

Chorus

Sold American!

#### **HIGH HEARTS**

words & music by John McCutcheon

John: vocal & piano Bob: sax

Peter bass

Slipping into the old school Feeling anything but young Take a beer and a nametag Why the hell did I come? Admire the dog-eared photos Struggle with the name of an old friend's wife 'Til all at once she stood in the doorway: The sixteen year old love of my life

All those exiled memories
I thumbed through page after page
Each one trapped in the harness
Of that perilous age
I watched her from the distance
Of family and crowd
But I offered no resistance
When she called me out loud

#### Chorus:

High hearts and false starts
Again and again
(Now it's) Fast rides and long strides
Ever since then, and I'm wondering when
Everything got so crazy
But things are never the same
I guess I didn't know nothing
Till I knew love's name

d hearts beating fast v that the dancing is slow Bodies not nearly so clumsy
As twenty years ago
There's just so much to tell you
That there's nothing to say
I guess the time, just like the chances
Have all slipped away

High hearts and false starts
Again and again
(Now it's) Fast rides and long strides
Ever since then, and I'm wondering when
My mind got so hazy
How could I ever explain
That I just didn't know nothing
Till I knew love's name

How does he find me? That boy I knew when I was young He's always there to remind me Playing at the edge of my memory Dancing on the tip of my tongue

Now this old house is darkened
'Cept for a single lamp's glow
Wrapped tight in the night
Here at the piano
Breathing slow in the cradle
My wife's face soft in the moon
As she rocks me to the rhythm of the night
With the words of love's tune

High hearts and false starts
Again and again
(Now it's) Fast rides and long strides
Ever since then, and I'm wondering when
I won't be so lazy
And I'll shoulder the blame

For not knowing nothing
Till I knew love's name (Darling, won't you
explain)
When I won't feel so crazy
As I struggle to tame
All these demons that haunt me
Now that I know love's name

Charlottesville, VA October, 1990

#### **CUT THE CAKE**

words & music by Tina Liza Jones

John: vocal & guitar Bob: clarinet

We're gonna let 2nd grade out early today
Which made little Mikey kinda blue
He just turned 7 years old that day
And he thought he'd get a party at school
He walked back home and he's taken off his guard
There's chairs and tables all over the yard
And his friends jumped up and they hollered real
hard,
"Happy Birthday to You!"

#### Chorus:

It makes me think of the good old days
Happy birthday to you
You sure grew out of your baby ways
Happy birthday to you
(7th 23rd, 92nd) birthday we wish you many
more
Health and wealth and friends by the score
Cut the cake and let's eat some more

Happy birthday to you

Now Mike's 22 and he's working for his Pop And his head's full of business thru and thru He was planning out a whole new system at the shop And he forgot he had a birthday due He drove back home and he's taken off his guard There's chairs and tables all over the yard And his friends jumped up and they hollered real hard.

"Happy Birthday to You!" Chorus

Now it's old man Michael in a rocking chair Admiring the view He's still got all his teeth and he's still got all his hair

And today he's 92 ' He turns in his seat and he's taken off his guard There's chairs and tables all over the yard And his friends jumped up and they hollered real

"Happy Birthday to You!" Chorus

hard,

#### **REASONS TO BELIEVE**

(1st: by Tim Hardin/2nd: by Bruce Springsteen)

In the first of many joint concerts Tom Chapin & I have done together we were throwing out song possibilities and Tom said, "How 'bout 'Reason to Believe?" 'Great!" I responded, "It's one of my favorites!" And we promptly began to sing two totally different songs. And found that they harmonized...

John: vocal & guitar Tom Chapin: vocal & guitar If I listened long enough to you I'd find a way to believe that it's all true Knowing that you lied straight-faced while I cried Still I look to find a reason to believe

If I gave you time to change my mind I'd find a way to leave the past behind Knowing that you lied straight-faced while I cried Still I look to find a reason to believe

Someone like you makes it hard to live without somebody else

Someone like you makes it easy to give, never thinking of myself

Seen a man sittin' by a dead dog in a highway in a ditch

He's lookin' kind of puzzled, pokin' that dog with a

He's got his car door flung open, standin' out on Highway 3 I

Like if he stood there long enough that's old dog'd get up and run

Well, don't you think it's kind of funny It's kind of funny, sir, to me How at the end of every hard-eamed day people find some reason to believe

Mary Lou loved Johnny with a love mean and true Said, "I'll work for you everyday, bring all my money home to you"

One day he up and left her and ever since that She sits at the end of that dirt road just waitin' for young Johnny to come back Well, don't you think it's kind of funny It's kind of funny, sir, to me How at the end of every hard-earned day people find some reason to believe

Take the baby to the river, Kyle William they called him

Dip the baby in the water, gonna wash away little Kyle's sins

In a whitewashed shotgun shack an old man passes away

Take his body to the graveyard and over him they

Sayin' "Lord, won't you tell us, Tell us what does it mean?" Still at the end of every hard earned day people find some reason to believe

#### WHERE WERE YOU WHEN

words & music by John McCutcheon

Inspired by a bedtime conversation with my youngest son, Peter, during the first days of the Persian Gulf War.

John: vocal & hammer dulcimer Gregory: piano

Just a simple question all tucked in for the night Standing in the doorway, hand upon the light Just tell me one more story, one you swear is true Tell me what you did back when, tell me what to do Where were you when Where were you when

Tell me did you feel like me, small and weak and scared

Tell me is it really true: were you unprepared?
Tell me how we got to here, how you made the plan
Tell me all about yourself, tell me who I am
Where were you when
Where were you when

The pen is in your hand Your mind sharp like a quill All the earth is moving But time is standing still Everything is waiting For you to make a move There's everything to gamble And nothing left to prove

In another bedroom door, in another time
A face that looked a lot like his looked to a face like
mine

Naked in the question, frozen in the light On the edge of mystery, on the edge of flight Step out of the history, step into the light Where were you when Where were you when

Charlottesville, VA February 1991

#### YESTERDAY'S FOOLS

words & music by John McCutcheon

My friend, Bob Feldman, head honcho at Red House Records, told me a story one wintery Philadelphia night about a town in western Kentucky where the farmers all retire at a prescribed age and spend their later years getting underfoot downtown telling everyone else how to farm...

John: vocal & fiddle Pete: guitar

"Look at yonder there how his furrow's too deep He'll never raise a crop on land that steep Rain's a-coming soon, I can feel it in my knee It'll wash out all he's doing, you just wait and see" Yesterday's fools now the works all done Talkin' 'bout the others in the noonday sun Just sittin' and a-spittin' and a-laughin' out loud They're the armchair farmers and the feedstore crowd

He wipes his face with the back of his hand As he turns around to look at the fresh-plowed land And he wonders how he'll finish 'fore the storm rolls in

And how his Daddy ever managed in the days 'fore him

Back when times were better then a man could save Now it's slaving from the cradle till they lay you in the grave

Either way the earth is gonna get the best of you At least that's what they say down at the feed store crew

Caps settin' on pegs all along the wall.
The white heads a-bobbin' round the old pool hall

A place they never knew in their younger days And a game that they never had the time to play Still they're up at four because it's all they know And at noon they're a-listenin' to the radio Just bitchin' at the prices of what they ain't growed And whisperin' a prayer for the one across the road

Well, it's just a few more years of the sweat and stench Till I stake my place on that old wom bench Till I start in a-lyin' bout the things I done And actin' like I know more 'n anyone Yesterday's fools now the works all done Talkin' bout the others in the noonday sun Just sittin' and a-spittin' and a-laughin' out loud They're the armchair farmers and the feedstore crowd

Flying into Seattle, WA January 1990

#### **CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES**

words & music by John McCutcheon Inspired by a back-stage conversation with an old woman in Birmingham, AL, this song tells a story that is not only true, but well-known throughout Europe.

John: vocal & guitar

My name is Francis Tolliver, I come from Liverpool, Two years ago the war was waiting for me after school.

To Belgium and to Flanders to Germany to here
I fought for King and country I love dear.
Twas Christmas in the trenches where the frost so

bitter hung,
The frozen fields of France were still, no Christmas
song was sung.

Our families back in England were toasting us that day, Their brave and glorious lads so far away. I was lying with my messmate on the cold and rocky ground

When across the lines of battle came a most peculiar sound

Says I, "Now listen up, me boys!" each soldier strained to hear

As one young German voice sang out so clear.

"He's singing bloody well, you know!" my partner
says to me

Soon one by one each German voice joined in in harmony

The cannons rested silent, the gas clouds rolled no more

As Christmas brought us respite from the war.

As soon as they were finished and a reverent pause was spent

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" struck up some lads from Kent

The next they sang was "Stille Nacht," "Tis 'Silent Night," says I

And in two tongues one song filled up that sky.
"There's someone coming towards us!" the front line

'here's someone coming towards us!" the front line sentry cried

All sights were fixed on one lone figure coming from their side

His truce flag, like a Christmas star, shone on that plain so bright

As he bravely strode unarmed into the night.

Soon one by one on either side walked into No Man's land

With neither gun nor bayonet we met there hand to hand

We shared some secret brandy and we wished each other well

And in a flare-lit soccer game we gave 'em hell.

We traded chocolates, cigarettes, and photographs
from home

These sons and fathers far away from families of their own

Young Sanders played his squeeze box and they had a violin

This curious and unlikely band of men.

Soon daylight stole upon us and France was France once more

With sad farewells we each began to settle back to war

But the question haunted every heart that lived that wondrous night

"Whose family have I fixed within my sights?"
'Twas Christmas in the trenches, where the frost so bitter hung

The frozen fields of France were warmed as songs of peace were sung

For the walls they'd kept between us to exact the work of war

Had been crumbled and were gone for evermore.

My name is Francis Tolliver, in Liverpool I dwell Each Christmas come since World War I I've learned its lessons well

That the ones who call the shots won't be among the dead and lame

And on each end of the rifle we're the same.

Birmingham, AL & Gate City, VA May, 1984.

## COPPER RIVER BOUNCE/MONEY MUSK

music by John McCutcheon/traditional

The first of these two tunes was written on a rougher-than-usual plane ride coming into the Copper River Delta near Cordova, AK. The second was learned from Paul Van Arsdale, my dulcimer guru, from North Tonawanda, NY. Paul learned the piece from his grandfather (his dulcimer guru), Jesse Martin. Money Musk is played to a popular country dance of the same name.

John: hammer dulcimer Paul: guitar

#### THE WATER IS WIDE

traditional

John: vocal & guitar
The water is wide, I cannot get o'er
And neither have I wings to fly
Give me a boat that can carry two
And both shall row, my love and I

A ship there is and she sails the sea She's loaded deep as deep can be But not so deep as this love I'm in I know not how I sink or swim

I leaned my back against an oak Thinking it was a trusty tree But first it bent and then it broke And thus did my false love to me Oh, love is gentle and love is kind The sweetest flower when first it's new But love grows old and it waxes cold And fades away like the summer's dew

The water is wide, I cannot get o'er And neither have I wings to fly Give me a boat that can carry two And both shall row, my love and I Thanks to Parthy, John, & Rosemary Monagan, Tom Chapin, Bob Grimes and the Wolf Trap Staff, Mary Cliff, Don Stallone, Liza Callen, Peter Jones, Steve & Donna Jones, Lori Elaine Taylor, Mary Trevor, Melissa Dunning, Janine Smith, Mary Duke Smith, Jonathan Eberhardt, Susan Hills, Courtney Caldwell, Ron Davies, Eve & Herman Schwartz, Lisa Rogers, David Craven, Molly Andrews, Lila Winstead, John DelRe, Kelly Macklin, Vicky Keating, Steve & Linda Best, Jeanne Mackey, Laurel Blaydes, Saul Schniderman, Doris Justis, Diane Walder, Stephanie Hysmith, Tim Slattery, Joan Robertson, Tracy Sian, Carol Elizabeth Jones, David Sawyer, Tom Slothower, & George Balderose. Oh yeah, Pedrito & the Willard, too!

For other John McCutcheon recordings, songbooks, and mailing list information contact:

Appalseed Productions 1025 Locust Avenue Charlottesville, VA 22901 804-977-6321

Also available by John McCutcheon:
Winter Solstice (Rounder 0192)
Step by Step (Rounder 0216)
Gonna Rise Again (Rounder 0222)
What It's Like (Rounder 0271)
Howjadoo! (Rounder 8009)
Mail Myself To You (Rounder 8016)
Water From Another Time (Rounder 11555)
John McCutcheon & Si Kahn: Signs of the Times
(Rounder 4017)

### John McCutcheon

### Live at Wolf Trap

- Calling All the Children Home
  (John McCutcheon/Appalsongs, ASCAP) 3:22
- The Hours After/Lonesome John /Reel a
   Bouche /Leather Britches (John McCutcheon
   /Appalsongs, ASCAP) (trad., arr. by John
   McCutcheon/Appalsongs, ASCAP) 6:37
- Stole & Sold from Africa (trad., arr. by John McCutcheon/Appalsongs, ASCAP) 7-18
- Black Sea
   (John McCutcheon/Appalsongs, ASCAP)
- 5. Old Brown's Head Light (John McCutcheon/Appalsongs, ASCAP) 4:24
- Joe Hill
   (Earl Robinson & Alfred Hayes/Leeds Music
   Comp. 7:23
- 7. Going, Going, Gone (Si Kahn/Joe Hill Music, ASCAP) 2:33
- 8. High Hearts
- 9. Cut the Cake
  (Tina Liza Iones/Swan & Ouill Music, BMI) 6:27

  7. Cut the Cake
  (Tina Liza Iones/Swan & Ouill Music, BMI) 6:27
- (Tina Liza Jones/Swan & Quill Music, BMI) 6:2/

  10. Reasons to Believe

  (Tim Hardin/Alley Music Corp. and Trio Music
  - (Tim Hardin/Alley Music Corp. and Trio Music Co., Inc.,BMI & Bruce Springsteen/Bruce Springsteen Music, ASCAP) 5:03
- 11. Where Were You When (John McCutcheon/Appalsongs, ASCAP) 3:38
- Yesterday's Fools (John McCutcheon/Appalsongs, ASCAP) 3:26
   Christmas in the Trenches
  - (John McCutcheon/Appalsongs, ASCAP) 6:53

- 14. Copper River Bounce/Money Musk (John McCutcheon/Appalsongs, ASCAP) /(trad., arr. by
- 15. The Water Is Wide (trad., arr. by John McCutcheon/Appalsongs,

#### Produced by Paul Reisler & John McCutcheon.

Recorded November 1990 & May 1991 at the Bams of Wolf Trap, Vienna, VA by Bill McElroy in the Gypsy Studios remote truck

Assistant engineering by Mike Rivers & Bob Read. Mixed at Bias Recording, Springfield, VA. Photography by Charles Shoffner. Design by Jean Wilcox

#### Musicians

John McCutcheon: vocals, guitar, banjo, fiddle, hammer dulcimer, & piano Torn Chapin: vocals & guitar Paul Reislen guitar Gregory Gladkov: piano Pete Kennedy: guitar & bass Bob Read: saxophones & darinet

Paul Reisler and Bob Read appear courtesy of Trapezoid and Narada Productions





- 1. Calling All the Children Home
- 2. The Hours After/Lonesome John /Reel á Bouche /Leather Britches 6:37
- 3. Stole & Sold from Africa 2:18
- Black Sea 3:00
- 5. Old Brown's Head Light
- 6. oe Hill 1:23
- 7. Coing, Guing, Gone 2:33
- 8. High Hearts 5:25
- 9. Lut the Cake 6:2
- 10. Reasons to Believe 5:03 11. Where Were You When 3:38
- 12. Yesterday's Fools 3:26
- 13. Christmas in the Trenches 6:52
- 14. Copper River
  Bounce/Money Musk
- 15 The Water Is Wide

#### ROUNDER

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